

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12040 290114Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11
OES-09 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05
/159 W

-----010202 291911Z/46

R 281717Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8624
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, RH, UK
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING OIL SALES TO RHODESIA

REF: STATE 184765 (NOTAL)

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE FCO THAT THE BINGHAM REPORT ON OIL SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS IN RHODESIA WILL GO TO DR. OWEN IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. WHILE NOSSITER'S ARTICLE REFLECTS A SPATE OF RUMORS IN LONDON, AND ALSO DRAWS ON STORIES RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN LISBON, THE BINGHAM INQUIRY HAS BEEN CLOSELY HELD AND THE POSSIBILITY OF "SCANDAL" IS SPECULATIVE.

2. WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES BINGHAM'S REPORT HE WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT, BUT THE DECISION WHETHER TO PUBLISH THE REPORT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE FCO LEGAL OFFICE. PUBLICA-
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PAGE 02 LONDON 12040 290114Z

TION COULD PREJUDICE TWO ONGOING LEGAL SUITS (LONRHO AND THE ZAMBIA GOVERNMENT) AND, POSSIBLY, WHATEVER LEGAL ACTIONS MAY RESULT FROM BINGHAM'S FINDINGS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FCO RECOGNIZES THAT FAILURE TO PUBLISH WOULD LEAVE HMG OPEN TO ACCUSATIONS OF COVER-UP AND COLLUSION OR OF SUPPRESSING BAD NEWS IN A PRE- ELECTORAL PERIOD.

3. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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